

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended)

An image forming method comprising the steps of:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member with a development device to form a toner image with toner particles comprising a resin prepared by a poly addition or polycondensation reaction, the toner particles having

an average circularity of 0.94 - 0.99,

an average equivalent circle diameter of 2.6 - 7.4 μm ,

and

a slope of a circularity compared to an equivalent circle diameter from -0.050 to -0.010;

transferring the formed toner image on a transfer material;

fixing the formed toner image on the transfer material after the transferring;

collecting non-transferred toner remaining on the image carrying member;

passing the collected non-transferred toner through a toner intermediate chamber, wherein the toner intermediate chamber is provided with a cylindrical or conical structure

oriented in a vertical direction which separates paper dust or toner granules toward the bottom of said toner intermediate chamber by utilizing spiraling flow ~~of gas~~ formed from a gas stream introduced into the intermediate chamber from the development device;

mixing the collected non-transferred toner with the gas in the spiraling flow to separate paper dust or toner granules from the collected non-transferred toner; and

transporting the mixture of separated collected non-transferred toner and gas from the toner intermediate chamber ~~by use of the gas stream~~ to the development device via a suction produced by an air-pump motor so as to reuse the separated collected non-transferred toner,

wherein the gas returned to the development device in the transporting of the mixture of the separated collected non-transferred toner and gas is re-introduced into the intermediate chamber to form the spiraling flow.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the resin is polyester, amorphous polyester, polyurethane, epoxy or polyol.

6. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the resin is amorphous polyester resin.

7. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 6, wherein the amorphous polyester resin is urethane modified polyester resin.

8. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the average circularity is from 0.95 to 0.98.

9. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the average equivalent circle diameter is 3.4 - 6.6 μm .

10. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the slope of circularity against an equivalent circle diameter is -0.040 to -0.020.

11. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the average circularity is 0.95 - 0.98; and the average equivalent circle diameter is 3.4 - 6.6 μm .

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 11, wherein the slope of circularity to an equivalent circle diameter is -0.040 to -0.020.

14-17. (Canceled)

18. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner contains a releasing agent.

19-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of Claim 18, wherein the releasing agent has a melting point in a range of 40-150°C.